



Music in the Mishkan presents "Exotic Sounds of France"

Sunday, May 4, 4 pm

Cellist Victoria Ehrlich will join CSZ members Randy Weiss (violin), Ruth Rainero (soprano) and Robert Schwartz (piano) in a concert of colorful and exciting music. Included on the program are *Baal Shem Suite (Three Pictures of Chasidic Life)* by Jewish Swiss composer Ernest Bloch; *Songs of Bilitis* by French composer Claude Debussy; *Songs* by Camille Saint-Saens and *Trio for Piano, Violin and Cello* by French composer Maurice Ravel.

Music in the Mishkan Director Randy Weiss promises that you will be dazzled, delighted and deliciously entertained! For tickets, contact CSZ Program Director Melanie Kushnir (ext. 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

Judaism's Secret Guide to Healthy Families

Co-sponsored by CSZ and JFCS

Wednesday, May 21, 7 - 9 pm

Join Karen Kushner and a panel of CSZ members for an exciting presentation and discussion, *Judaism's Secret Guide to Healthy Families*. This educational opportunity is great for parents and for individuals considering parenthood. Please RSVP to Melanie Kushnir in the CSZ office by Friday, May 16 if you will be attending.

Karen Kushner is a Jewish Life Educator with Jewish Family and Children's Services. She has worked as a social worker specializing in the self-healing power of families for twenty-six years, and she leads workshops and retreats for educational, business and religious groups.

For more than 20 years, she has taught religious school to teenagers and primary students and has designed a Hebrew curriculum for second graders learning with their parents.

SAVE THE DATE!

CSZ's Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, May 18 at 3 pm.

Fund for the Future

by Laura Lowe, co-chair,
Fund for the Future Committee

We've had lots of questions regarding the Fund for the Future. Now that we're getting rolling on this fabulous fundraising effort, I thought that I would take the opportunity to answer those questions.

What is Fund for the Future? Fund for the Future is a bridge, supporting the soul of the congregation as we reach toward achieving some of our long-range plans. As you may know, we are at an unusual time in our congregational life. Our congregation has a high level of programming for our size. The Fund for the Future is designed to allow us to continue this level of program as we grow. Your pledge will be spread over three years.

Who will be solicited? As you may know, at the same time that we are soliciting for Fund for the Future, another group in our congregation is soliciting for our building:

Mishkan Dolores II. Fund for the Future solicitors will only be calling on those people who are not being approached by the Mishkan Dolores II group. In other words, if you already gave to Mishkan Dolores I, you are on our list.

How will it happen? Don't worry. It's pretty painless. You will get letters, telephone calls and maybe a request for a visit to talk about your pledge. The solicitation process should be under way by the time you get this newsletter. We will be contacting you in groups.

How much do we need to raise? We need to raise \$300,000. This means that we need 100% participation. Any amount is appreciated and will help get us reach our goal. We need your support!

How will donations be recognized? There are several ways that we will recognize our donors. There will be a thank-you party at the end of the campaign for all contributors.

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The CSZ Gift Shop's 25th Anniversary Sale

by Jeffrey Lilly

During the month of May, the gift shop will offer all items, with the exception of books, at 25% off. Whether you are thinking about getting a tallit for the High Holidays or a menorah for Chanukkah, you will be able to get the best buy during our May sale celebrating Sha'ar Zahav's 25th anniversary.

During the past year we have purchased many attractive new items. For example, we now offer beautiful silk tallitot made by local artist, Jacqueline Berg. For these, a 25% reduction in price represents considerable savings. We also have added to our jewelry collection which is now quite extensive. We sell candlesticks, both for home and travel, kiddush cups, seder plates, m'zuzot and a large array of other Judaica.

Meanwhile our book collection is growing. Soon we will be adding *Etz Hayim*, the Conservative Torah Commentary, *Queer Jews*, *Found Tribe* (a collection of gay Jewish coming out stories) and *The New Jewish Baby Book*, a book of baby names that includes ritual suggestions and text on how to begin to raise a Jewish child, recommended by our Family and Children's Education Director, Sue Bojdak. Among books we already have are the Reform *Torah Commentary* by Plaut and the Reform *Haftarah Commentary* by Plaut and Stern. The new additions should be in stock by the time you read this.

We open each Friday evening from 6:45 until 7:25. You may also shop during the week when the office is open. Please call first.

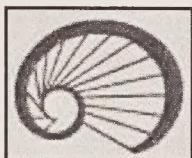
Queer and Jewish or Jewish and Queer: Writers Wrestling with Issues of Identity

Sunday, May 11, 3 pm

Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, Lower Level, San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin Street

Co-Sponsored by CSZ and the James Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center

Jews have been called "the people of the book." What do a group of Jews do when they've historically been excluded from that book? They sit down and write, of course! Three recent anthologies, *Queer Jews*, *Kosher Meat* and *Found Tribe*, explore issues of Jewishness and queer-ness, from a wide variety of perspectives. Why now, more than two decades after *Nice Jewish Girls* and 15 years since *Twice Blessed*?



In this panel discussion by CSZ members, moderated by noted scholar Patricia Lin, local authors will discuss their writing and how it emerges from their own journeys. Caryn Aviv, Ali Cannon, Andrew Ramer and David Steinberg, in addition to sharing aspects of their own stories, will talk about these issues: What is the future of Jewish queer writing? What is the future of the queer Jewish community – will it remain separate or merge with the "mainstream" Jewish community? How are issues of diversity in the queer Jewish world approached and addressed? How do religious and secular Jewish queers find common ground? And, what role, if any, does the queer Jewish community have in the larger Jewish and queer worlds? In anticipation of the panel, Andrew Ramer said, "Living in a time when globalization seems to equal Americanization, I'm grateful for the opportunity to write about and discuss my lifelong journey to marry my Jewish body and gay soul (or is it the other way around?)." Jim Van Buskirk, Program Manager of the Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center added, "I'm excited that the Hormel Center is co-sponsoring this panel exploring multiple identities with Sha'ar Zahav, after other recent successful library programs on contemporary queer Irish writers and historical queer Black writers."

This promises to be a lively discussion. Please join us for an afternoon of writing, talk and thought-provoking commentary on this dynamic clan in the tribe. There will be a question-and-answer period at the end of the panel, and time afterwards to continue the conversation. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Torah Trope Classes at CSZ

Tuesdays, May 6 – June 17
(no class meeting on May 20)
7 – 8:30 pm

This spring, CSZ offers you the opportunity to learn Torah chanting. This introductory Torah trope class will be taught by CSZ's own Ron Edelman and will begin on Tuesday, May 6. There will be a total of six weekly sessions running through June 17 (please note that the class will not meet on May 20). You must be able to read basic Hebrew, but an advanced knowledge and understanding of Hebrew is not necessary. Cost is \$36 for CSZ members, \$72 for non-members. Class size is limited. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 ext. 305, mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

Shabbat Celebrations at Home

Shabbat and havdalah present many lovely opportunities to celebrate peace at home – food, prayers, rituals – which complement our services at CSZ. CSZ is forming a "Shabbat Celebration" group to provide interested members with Shabbat how-to suggestions and assistance in organizing at-home pre-service Friday Shabbat dinners, post-service Saturday Shabbat lunches and havdalah gatherings. Please contact Don Fischer (415/841-1922, Donald.L.Fischer@us.pwcglobal.com) for more information or if you'd like to host an event or assist members who are hosting. And yes, it's also a great way to meet other CSZ members. Stay tuned for event information in the weekly emails.

Planning for the High Holidays

Ah, Rosh Hashanah ... it's that time of year again! Well, not quite yet, but the High Holiday Ritual Subcommittee is raring to go and we hope you are too! Now is the

time to start thinking about how you would like to participate in High Holiday services. Rosh Hashanah begins Friday evening, September 26 and Yom Kippur begins Sunday, October 5.

Right now we're looking for a few (well, more than a few...) good congregants who would like to lead an English reading, chant Torah or Haftarah. So if you are interested in such a kavod (honor) or even if you just have the slightest twinkle of an interest, please let us know.

Contact Ron Edelman (415/641-5331, ron-wizrd@mindspring.com), Randy Weiss (415/621-4211, randyviolin@hotmail.com) or Anna Lichtenberg (415/378-9292, Sedef2@yahoo.com).

Iv'du et HaShem

B'simcha:

Come let us
serve with joy!

Shabbat Services, May 2

For many years now, Sha'ar Zahav has had an ongoing service leading initiative to both welcome and increase the number of lay service leaders in our congregation. To support this initiative, Rabbi Angel and Nathan Robinson (in consultation with Leslie Kane) created and taught a new class entitled, "Iv'du et HaShem B'simcha: Come let us serve with joy! Creating a Spiritual Space – Service Leading with Confidence." Twenty-five new and experienced service leaders attended and examined some of the many facets of how to make a service go well for both leader and congregation – from how to most effectively use the microphone, to discussing the difference between leading and performing. Students who completed the class will participate as service leaders on Friday, May 2. Join us in celebrating Sha'ar Zahav's ongoing commitment to lay led services!

Pride 2003

It's time to start planning for Pride 2003! We are looking for some fabulous CSZ-inspired ideas and volunteers for the parade. If you would like to volunteer your time and creative energy to make Sha'ar Zahav visible and fierce at this year's festivities, please contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 ext. 305, mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

Pinat Yeladim Umishpachah

Children and Family Corner

Kadimah Teacher of the Month:

Phyllis Mintzer

Phyllis Mintzer is now in her fifteenth year on the Kadimah staff, where she serves as Head Teacher. Phyllis, in partnership with Rabbi Yoel Kahn, founded Kadimah and acted as principal for the first half of Kadimah's young life. Phyllis has dedicated her life to Jewish education. She received her Religious School Teacher's Accreditation from HUC-JIR, NY in 1957 and graduated from Rhea Hirsch School of Education, HUC-JIR, Los Angeles in 1979. Phyllis has been a teacher and Director of Education in the Bay Area since 1965 and was among the first five teachers honored by the UAHC as *Morech Derech* at the UAHC Biennial in Florida in 1999.

Currently, Phyllis teaches our b'nei mitzvah students, *Kitah Vav*. Phyllis has an extraordinary dedication to her students and strives to find the hook for each one as they make their way through the expanse of Jewish learning. Phyllis has a talent for recognizing the gifts each one of us brings to our community and to *klal Israel* (the whole people of Israel). In addition to teaching our young people, Phyllis is a teacher to any number of adults, in both formal and informal settings, and is a mentor to all of our teaching staff. Kol Ha'Kavod!

Family Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, May 2, 6 pm

Commune, eat, sing and celebrate Shabbat with CSZ families and then stay for Friday night services. Families with children of all ages are encouraged to come. Dinner is vegetarian potluck. Please bring according to your last name: A-G a main dish to pass, H-N a side dish, salad or fruit, O-T drinks, U-Z dessert. No RSVP required. Be a part of the ruach (spirit) of our community and invite friends and family to join you. Shabbat Shalom!

**Last day of KADIMAH is
Saturday, May 17**

Family Israel Education Day

Saturday, May 3, 9:30 - noon

Spend the morning in Jerusalem with your children. Get to know the neighborhoods. Explore the diversity of the Israeli people. Experience the sounds, tastes and smells of this holy city. This is an opportunity to share with our kids the land and the people of the Jewish homeland. This program is for Kadimah-aged children and their parents.

Kadimah Open House for Prospective Families

Saturday, May 10, 9:30 am - 10:45 am

Thinking about enrolling your child in Kadimah in the fall? Wondering if it's the right time for you? Trying to figure out what happens at Kadimah anyway? Now is the time to come check it out! Experience our morning prayer circle. Hear from our kids about their experiences. Get a taste of our classrooms and have all of your questions answered. Don't forget to bring your kids so they can learn what Kadimah is all about.

Baby Chavurah

Sunday, May 11, 10 am - noon

Bring those under twos out to play, sing and commune with like-minded babes and their parents. Join us for potluck brunch, playtime and socializing. Please bring your baby and a vegetarian dish to pass. Older siblings are welcome, as are nonmembers. Baby Chavurah meets every three weeks.

Kadimah Family Picnic

Saturday, May 17, noon at Dolores Park

Come celebrate the end of another wonderful year of Kadimah. We will appreciate the service of our fine teachers, teaching assistants and madrichim plus eat, play and enjoy!

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, May 24, 10:30 am - noon

Come celebrate Shabbat with your tot. Bring your two- to five-year-olds for singing, prayer, storytelling, crafts and

Jewish family fun with Sandra Menachem, Early Childhood Education Specialist. Younger siblings and nonmembers are welcome. Tot Shabbat meets the last Saturday of the month.

Contact Sue Bojdak, Director of
Family and Children's Education
(415/861-6932 x 302 or
educator@shaarzahav.org)
for more information about any
of these programs or to RSVP.

The Jewish Gaily Forward

May 2003

Volume 26, Issue 9

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/861-6932. Email: office@shaarzahav.org. Permission to reprint with attribution is hereby granted.

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Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

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Classified ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each additional 10 words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, marked: Attention Forward Advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.



Social Action Connection

by Susan Lubeck

Meaningful items for your to-do list:

- Quarterly Committee Meeting: Please join us at CSZ on Monday, May 5, from 6 – 8:30 pm, to discuss the work that's underway and generate ideas, all while enjoying pizza and each other's company. For more information, contact Melanie at the office or Susan Lubeck (510/531-7660, susan-lubeck@aol.com). If you're planning on coming, please give us a call.
- We continue to build our presence and contribution to dinners for our homeless neighbors on Wednesdays at Most Holy Redeemer Church (in the Castro). It's easy to participate. You'll find welcoming friends and you can arrive any time from 4 to 9 pm. Contact Jay Davidson (415/861-2444, teacher@jaydavidson.com).
- Celebrate and support activism by and for the LGBT community: Attend the National Center for Lesbian Rights Gala Dinner with fellow CSZers on May 24. To reserve your space among your CSZ peers and pals, contact Lonnie Weiss (415/255-1641, i.weiss@attbi.com).

Our Social Action Mitzvah at Most Holy Redeemer

CSZ's B'nei Mitzvah class, Aaron Goldman-Maclachlan, Red Bennett and Tsipora Prochovnick, with our teacher Phyllis Mintzer, and Naomi Szoke, Red's mom, helped out at Most Holy Redeemer (MHR) on February 19 as one of our class mitzvot. Two weeks later, we had a conversation about our experience there. Following are some of the highlights of our thoughts and feelings about this mitzvah:

Aaron: I felt like I was doing something good because I was helping people. It was fun and felt good being there and knowing that all those people were getting meals.

Red: I expected a sea of people, but there weren't that many. Everyone I talked to

was nice. I was relieved, because I thought there would be people running around and screaming at each other. People didn't act like jerks. Once I saw them there, I realized that they all aren't crazy. A lot of the homeless I see seem depressed or crazy. These guys didn't really seem homeless. They seemed happier than I expected. Some of them seemed extremely shy or timid. When I was serving them, I was worried that they were going to do something weird, that I would have to listen to them ramble on, or that I would get into a situation that was hard to get out of. But that didn't happen. All of our class mitzvot are about helping people. It's the best thing that you can do. Helping people makes me feel good inside. It makes me feel slightly less guilty. Helping at MHR was a really good feeling, but it was also kind of depressing because it didn't solve the bigger problem: all the other homeless people didn't get food that night, and those who did will just get hungry again. It also seems as if the people at MHR are the more together homeless, because it takes more brain power to make it there. They can't be too crazy or on drugs.

Tsipora: When Susan Mizner spoke to our class, she said that there are a million zillion homeless in San Francisco, but that we don't know they are there. She said that they try and hide because people are rude to them. So I expected it to be really crowded, but it wasn't. I was surprised that the people there weren't as dirty as I expected. I thought that it was going to be dirty and that everyone would be on drugs. I was not looking forward to it. But it was cleaner and less freaky than I thought it would be. I was relieved that everybody wasn't so weird. They didn't seem homeless. I saw a kid there who looked about 8 years old, and I felt sorry for him because he was a child. It was a good mitzvah because we were helping people.

Phyllis: I went into it with some trepidation because I wasn't sure what we were going to do. Like the kids, I was concerned about uncontrolled behavior on the part of guests. We hadn't talked about it with the kids before. I was afraid they

might experience discomfort. But once I saw how comfortable people were sitting around the tables, I felt grateful to have the opportunity to participate in this dinner that enabled them to feel comfortable and respected. I was particularly happy to see the dignity with which they were treated. I think it was good for the kids to see that when people are treated with respect, they respond. After a while I was not even aware of their clothing or the way they spoke, only of being in a place where people were enjoying dinner together. Tz'dakah is an important Jewish value. Feeding those who are hungry is a value that comes through in our liturgy as well as in our literature. There, but for the grace of God, go I. It was a mitzvah that made me feel good.

A Visit to Folsom State Prison

by Ray Bernstein, Joss Eldredge and Craig Persiko

Rabban Gamaliel said, "Do not walk out on the community." (Pirke Avot 2:4).

Eight volunteers from CSZ and Congregation Beth Sholom visited Folsom State Prison on Sunday, March 23. Rabbi Ira Book, the Jewish chaplain who divides his time between Folsom and other prisons, spoke to us and a crowd of about 20 inmates about the lessons of Purim. The inmates had clearly studied the story of Esther in advance of the gathering. Some of the prisoners are studying Hebrew together, and one bravely did an impromptu reading of a Hebrew prayer brought by a volunteer. Many of the inmates spoke thoughtfully and eloquently about their appreciation for religious guidance while in prison. The surprising thing is that most of the people who attend Rabbi Book's services are not Jewish. Some have family members who are Jewish; some were rejected by their church upon coming out; others like the challenge of learning a new language. Some are thinking about converting to Judaism, while others enjoy these teachings as a complement to their Christian studies. Rabbi Book says that there are

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CSZ Celebrates Purim

It's a mitzvah to don the best costumes our closets have to offer, eat our fill of hamentashen, shake our groggers and party the night away. This holiday was made with Sha'ar Zahav in mind! Attesting to this, here's pictorial evidence of our festivities.

Shop at the CSZ Gift Shop.

It's an easy way to make
a contribution to our synagogue.

Folsom Visit

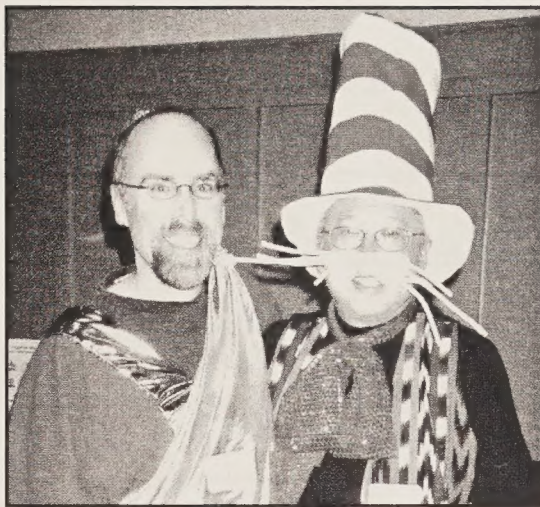
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quite a few Jews in the state prison system who are afraid to "come out" because of Nazi or white supremacist gangs.

Rabbi Book makes Torah both interesting and relevant to his congregation, and he welcomes people of all faiths and cultures (something he says all prison chaplains should do). It was heartening to meet people who are using their "yard" time in prison to think about issues of morality. On future visits, perhaps we will have more opportunity to talk with the inmates about what draws them to religion – and to Judaism in particular – in prison.

Folsom prison has a small Jewish library in need of donated books. Books about basic Jewish practice, history and custom are always good, and paperbacks are best so that inmates can check them out (hardback books must remain in the library for safety reasons.) Books can be sent to: Rabbi Ira Book, State of California, Dept. of Corrections, Folsom State Prison, P.O. Box 71, Represa, CA 95671

Join us for a panel discussion on
Wednesday, June 4, on 25 years
of LGBT/Jewish activism.
Look for details to come.



Joe Hample and Larry Wong



*Anna Lichtenberg, Tsipora Prochovnick,
and Aaron Goldman-Maclachlan*



Jeff Rubin



Ila Cherney and Nol Simone

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May 2003

June Deadline: Monday, May 5, 5pm

Articles

Please submit your articles as a Word attachment via email to: newsletter@shaarzahav.org. *No late submissions will be accepted.*

Advertising

To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

East Bay Services

led by Nicole Bloom
Friday, May 2, 7:30 pm
at the home of Nicole Bloom and Sue Swigart
1142 Delaware Street, Berkeley, 510/524-6242

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 Iyyar - 2	5 Iyyar - 3	6 Iyyar - 4	7 Iyyar - 5
4 pm Music in the Mishkan	6 pm Social Action Committee 7 pm Beit Midrash	4 pm East Bay Kadimah 7 pm 25th Anniversary Planning Meeting 7 pm Torah Trope class	<i>Israel Independence Day</i> <i>Yom Ha'atzmaut</i> 4 pm Midweek Kadimah 7 pm JGF editing
11 Iyyar - 9	12 Iyyar - 10	13 Iyyar - 11	14 Iyyar - 12
10 am Baby Chavurah 3 pm Queer and Jewish or Jewish and Queer 7 pm JGF layout		4 pm East Bay Kadimah 7 pm 25th Anniversary Planning Meeting 7 pm Torah Trope class	4 pm Midweek Kadimah
18 Iyyar - 16	19 Iyyar - 17	20 Iyyar - 18	21 Iyyar - 19
3 pm Annual Congregational Meeting	7 pm Keshet Committee	7 pm 25th Anniversary Planning Meeting	7 pm Judaism's Secret Guide to Healthy Families
25 Iyyar - 23	26 Iyyar - 24	27 Iyyar - 25	28 Iyyar - 26
	<i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office closed</i>	7 pm 25th Anniversary Planning Meeting 7 pm Torah Trope class	

Nisan - Iyyar 5763

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday evening, June 21
for CSZ's Silver Party: 25 Years of Pride

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Nisan - 29	2 Nisan - 30	3 Iyyar - 1
	6 pm Family Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Service Leading Class, Rabbi Angel and Nathan Robinson	9 am Torah Study 9:30 am Family Israel Education Day 9:30 am Kadimah 10 am Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Rachel Maclachlan
8 Iyyar - 6	9 Iyyar - 7	10 Iyyar - 8
6:30 pm Va'ad meeting	7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Randy Weiss and Tiela Chalmers	9 am Torah Study 9:30 am Kadimah 9:30 am Kadimah Open House 10 am Shabbat Services led by Jeff Piade and Ron Edelman
15 Iyyar - 13	16 Iyyar - 14	17 Iyyar - 15
	7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Lyssa Friedman and Paul Cohen	9 am Torah Study 9:30 am Kadimah 10 am Shabbat Services led by Dev Felder Noily and adult b'nei mitzvah students Noon Kadimah Picnic
22 Iyyar - 20	23 Iyyar - 21	24 Iyyar - 22
	7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and graduating seniors	9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services led by Sarita Groisser and Ora Prochovnick 10:30 am Tot Shabbat
29 Iyyar - 27	30 Iyyar - 28	31 Iyyar - 29
6:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting	<i>Family Retreat</i> 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Daniel Chesir and Reuben Zellman	<i>Family Retreat</i> 9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services



From the Jewish Toolkit

Comforting the Mourner

You probably did not wake up today eager to talk about death and mourning. The Jewish Tool Kit understands how you feel. Few of us like to talk about this topic, even though we all have to deal with it eventually. But there is great wisdom and comfort in the Jewish approach to death and mourning, which is guided by two principles: *kibud ha-met*, honoring the deceased, and *nichum aveilim*, comforting the mourners. Better to learn a little more about them now, so that when a death occurs we can draw strength from the tradition or offer it to others.

From the moment of death until burial, we provide assistance to the bereaved, but we do not attempt to comfort him. The Mishnah teaches "do not console your friend while his dead lie before him," recognizing that in the chaotic state immediately after the death of a loved one, a person is not in a frame of mind to be consoled, but should simply be allowed to express grief. During this time, the focus is on maintaining the honor and dignity of the deceased, which is accomplished in three main ways. First, a body is never left alone, but is watched over day and night until burial. Second is a process called *tahara*, where the body is ritually washed. Finally, burial takes place as quickly as possible, since it is considered disrespectful of the deceased to leave his body unburied.

Immediately after burial the emphasis shifts to comforting the mourner, who is defined by Jewish law as one who has lost a parent, child, sibling or spouse. Traditionally, during an intense seven day period called *shiva* (which means "seven"), a mourner remains inside, sits low to the ground, wears slippers instead of leather shoes and abstains from pleasurable activities such as sexual relations, bathing and grooming (beyond basic hygiene), wearing new clothes or studying Torah. Visitors provide comfort to the mourner during this period. One enters a house of mourning in silence and does not greet the mourner, but rather sits by his side, until he is ready to speak. Idle chit-chat or attempts to distract the mourner from his loss are not the Jewish way. Rather, it is appropriate and encouraged to talk about the deceased, to reminisce about his life and lament his death, always following the mourner's lead. These same guidelines apply even if mourners choose to have a single memorial or prayer service instead of a full seven-day shiva.

Now, The Jewish Tool Kit does not want to get all preachy, but she has to stress that it is *always* fitting to attend a funeral, shiva or

memorial service for a member of your community, regardless of your relationship to the deceased or to the mourner. Your mere presence provides solace even if you do not say a word. Comforting the bereaved is a mitzvah that we learn directly from God, who visited Isaac upon the death of his father, Abraham. It is viewed not only as a sacred communal obligation, but as one of the greatest acts of *chesed* (loving kindness) that you can do for another.

Comments about the Jewish Tool Kit can be sent to JewishToolKit@attglobal.net.

Rabbi Angel's Recommended Readings

Anne Brener, *Mourning & Mitzvah: A Guided Journal for Walking the Mourner's Path Through Grief to Healing*. Jewish Lights Publishing.

Maurice Lamm, *The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning*. Jonathan David Publishers.

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives. Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible. We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

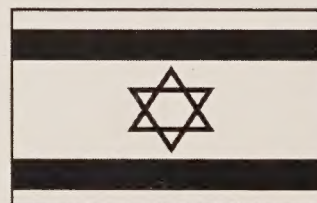
Rabbi Camille Shira Angel



Our hope is not lost, to be a free
people in our land

עוד לא אבדה תקותינו, להיות
עם חופשי בארצנו

יום העצמאות YOM HA-ATZMA'UT



5 Iyar 5763

7 May 2003

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Fund for the Future

continued from page 1

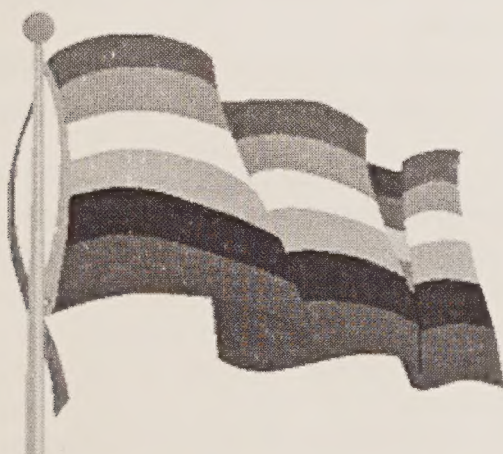
A booklet will be given out at the party recognizing all contributors. The names of contributors will be divided into categories based on the seven colors of the rainbow flag.

o Purple	400 chai	\$7,200 and over
o Blue	300 chai	\$5,400 – 7,199
o Green	200 chai	\$3,600 – 5,399
o Pink	100 chai	\$1,800 – 3,599
o Yellow	50 chai	\$900 – 1,799
o Orange	25 chai	\$450 - 899
o Red	Chai	\$18 - 449

There will also be an opportunity for recognition with donor plaques and sponsorship grants as well. Those wishing to have their level of contribution remain anonymous will be listed without reference to a color category.

How can you help? The best way to help is to make your pledge now! If you want to join our fabulous team of solicitors let us know. We appreciate the congregation's support.

Any questions? Contact Laura Lowe (415/247-2409 or llowe@landam.com).



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Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street

415/861-6932 (voice); 415/861-6081 (fax)

office@shaarzahav.org (email) • http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

CSZ Staff

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Membership Assistant

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Officers

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• lkatz1@juno.com or

• president@shaarzahav.org

Vice President, Arthur Slepian

Vice President, Jeffrey Sherman

Treasurer, Gail Ludwig

Recorder, Ray Bernstein

Va'ad Board Members

David Gellman (ex-officio)

Marianne Balin

Ron Edelman

Leslie Kane

Nancy Kates

Laura Lowe

Ron Miguel

Drew Parker-Rose

Karen Schiller

Howard Steiermann

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office

Committee Chairs

Adult Education, Ron Edelman and Joss Eldredge

Baby Chavurah, by committee

Bequests and Donations, open

Bikkur Cholim, open

Book Group, Mark Mackler

Building and Grounds, Beth Sousa

Bylaws, open

Children's Education Board, Ruthy Talansky

Cemetery, Richard Inlander

Dues, Tiela Chalmers, Laura Lowe, Ron Lezell

East Bay Chavurah, Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler

Endowment Fund, David Stein

Experiment in Congregational Education,

Dan Bellm

Finance, Gail Ludwig

Fine Arts, Barbara Cymrot

Fund for the Future, Laura Lowe and

Richard Meyerson

Fundraising, Arthur Slepian

Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin

Israel Committee, Miki Goralsky and Steve

Mazer

Kesher/Connection, Marianne Balin and Geri

Kahn

Leadership Development, Paul Cohen

Library, Bernard Schertzer

Long-Range Planning, Arthur Slepian and

Claudia Bernard

Membership Outreach, Tony Harris

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign, Deborah

Udin

Newsletter, Karen Schiller

• newsletter@shaarzahav.org

Outreach, Mark Gershman and Daphne Stuart

Past Presidents' Council, Diana Buchbinder

Personnel, Jeff Sherman

Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky and

Marc Wernick

Rabbi Liaison, Ora Prochovnick

Ritual, Howard Steiermann

Social Action, AJ Turpin, Craig Persiko,

Susan Lubeck

25th Anniversary Committee, Sharyn Saslafsky

and Terrett Drake

UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin

UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir

WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman

Web and I.T., Drew Parker-Rose

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Jews

What's Silver and Black and 25?

No, it's not a jersey from the Oakland Raiders. It's the CSZ 25th Anniversary Celebration on June 21.

Now, just in...Our venue for this spectacular event of the Pride season will be Delancey Street Town Hall! Music, dancing and general fun times will be included. The cost for all this is just \$50 per person. Don't wait – get your tickets now. Call Alison Gilbert (ext 316).

The CSZ 25th Anniversary Committee is also looking for volunteers to assist in making this the event of the summer. Please contact co-chairpersons Sharyn Saslafsky (415/626-7681, sharynn@ix.netcom.com) or Terrett Drake (415/355-1372, Terrettsf@sbcglobal.net) for further information.

Congregational Softball Game and Picnic

Sunday, June 22, noon – 3 pm

CSZ is pleased to announce a softball game and picnic at Julius Kahn field, located on Pacific Ave. and Spruce St. (at the Presidio Wall) in Presidio Heights.

Everyone of all ages, abilities and (especially) non-abilities are welcome!

Bring your mitt, a picnic lunch – and maybe a few band-aids. A great way to unwind following CSZ's Silver Party the night before.

Please RSVP to Melanie (ext. 305, mkushnir@shaarzahav.org) by June 15, so we can ensure that we have enough fabulous CSZ players for both teams!

March Va'ad Minutes

Lele and Rachel Field reported for the Social Action Committee on AB 205, the Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003. We unanimously voted to endorse the bill and to lend CSZ's name to the list of supporters.

Rabbi Angel delivered her report; Reuben Zellman will be the *Jewish Bulletin's* cover story. We were encouraged to write letters to the editor in support of Rueben's admission to rabbinical school and about the surrounding publicity.

Marianne Balin delivered the Membership Committee Report. Most people join synagogues when their kids are about to enter religious school and then stay until their last child's graduation. CSZ is unique in that people often join for their adult spiritual needs and less for the "product" of children's education.

There are six main reasons that people do not renew their membership with us: they move away, the ritual "didn't work" for them, they have concerns about community politics, they have

concerns about world politics (especially Israel), they "tried it and didn't like it" (usually during the first year) or they live in the East Bay.

Please enjoy and appreciate our brand new Members' Social Directory, a labor of love by Julie Hansen, with cover created by Mike Bromberg.

Sharyn Saslafsky reported on the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee's plans for June 21. We approved the committee's proposal.

Treasurer Gail Ludwig delivered the preliminary budget for 2003-04. We thanked Gail, James and the finance committee for putting together this first reading of the budget.

President Lisa Katz asked us to think about developing a policy on CSZ support for outside organizations. For example, we have publicized NCLR's fundraiser, Rabbi Burke's program on Argentina's Jews and the Lesbian Health Program at UCSF. Supporting these seemed like a "no-brainer." Our support may vary from publicity to encouraging congregants to give financial support to other groups. What happens to items in a "gray area"? We are all invited to email Lisa with ideas.


Interim Executive Director James Carlson reported that we have our High Holiday sites. This year, erev Rosh Hashanah and first day Rosh Hashanah services will be held at Lowell High School's Carol Channing Theater. Day two will be at CSZ. Yom Kippur services will be at the Herbst Theater. Lowell has parking, it's about half the cost of the Herbst and we might do Tashlich at nearby Lake Merced.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new member this month. A warm welcome to the most recent person to join our family:

Steven Weiler

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

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Can You Identify This Davener & Doer?

by Prudence Carter

How well do you know the people with whom you daven each Shabbat? Or the person who sits next to you in a committee meeting? Here's your chance to find out. Read the interview I conducted with one of our members, then answer the question: Who is this member?

Send your answers to me by email: pruc@sbcglobal.net. The first two winners to guess the name of the mystery member will receive gift certificates to our gift shop. What better way to get to know someone than by chatting with your neighbor at services to see if that person is the profiled member? All entries must be received by June 1.

JGF: What made you want to be a mystery member? Was it something in your Jewish upbringing?

MM: Each month I read your column and I think to myself, would I know this member if I sat next to him or her at services or in one of the classes or at a CSZ event? The picture jogs my memory, but because I am shy, I often don't introduce myself and start a conversation.

I became a member of the covenant several years ago, so my Jewish upbringing began when I was in my late teens and early twenties. I studied Kabbalah for about two years, becoming immersed in Jewish mysticism so perhaps that sense of mystery has never left me.

JGF: What drew you to CSZ and what part of CSZ life do you enjoy the most?

MM: I joined CSZ in 1997. I had known about CSZ since the early eighties. My love life, however, kept me traveling so I joined but really did not participate much. After spending some time on the East Coast and in Southern California, I relocated to the Bay Area. CSZ attracted me again, so here I am. The shul has become my community. Each year I participate in Rebuilding Together, take some education classes and participate on different committees. I enjoy the energy of the community and the diversity of viewpoints. I consider myself a Reconstructionist, so the social action and tikkun olam parts of CSZ are very attractive to me.

JGF: How do you see CSZ contributing to the spiritual aspect of your life?

MM: I recently became a bat mitzvah and I found that to be a very spiritual moment in my journey. Studying and learning from

Dev Felder Noily and Rabbi Angel and reading Jewish books brought me to another spiritual level. I felt that I had crossed another threshold on my Jewish journey. Sometimes I attend services on Friday night, although I find the liturgy quite conservative.

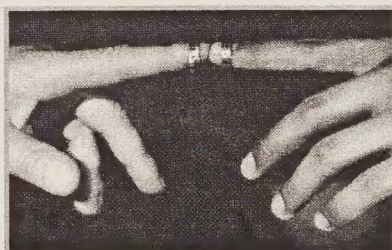
Shabbat to me is really to be celebrated around the table with your family, reviewing the week, eating great food, drinking delicious wine and taking just that moment to see, feel and appreciate what God brought to the world.

JGF: What are your sources of energy and what would you tell new members?

MM: My sources of energy are my family, meeting with a friend downtown to discuss politics through the prism of Jewish thought and reading Jewish literature written by new Jewish authors.

For new members, I say talk with the person sitting next to you, join a committee. It really is only a once-a-month meeting, I loved being on the education committee and on the outreach task force. The congregational advance is just a wonderful way to get to know the shul and the leadership. Take a class in Hebrew. Join us in Rebuilding Together or social action. There is so much you can get from this community. Don't let it be a mystery to you!

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Donations

AIDS Fund

Allan Berenstein

- in memory of Ron Gertz.

Adult Education Fund

Robert Cohen

- in memory of Doug Porter.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Jonathan Funk

- in memory of Edward Gellman.

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein.

Children's Education Fund

Debbie Levy

- in honor of all our wonderful Kadimah students.
- in honor of Naftali Bojdak-Yates.

Liz, Michael and Allison Schaffer

- in honor of Sue, Deb and Naftali Bojdak-Yates.
- in honor of Daphne, Lyssa and Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman.

Michael Zimmerman

- in honor of the arrival of Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman.

Fund for the Future

James Carlson

- in memory of Regina Schipper.
- in honor of Ira Hirschfield.
- in honor of Irene Ogus.
- in honor of the arrival of Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman.

Harold N. Ginsberg

- in appreciation and support of visiting scholars and all other education programs.

General Fund

Allan Berenstein

- in memory of Max Radetsky.
- in memory of Regina Schipper.

Randy Ellen Blaustein

- in memory of Molly Blaustein.
- in honor of Rabbi Angel.
- in honor of Dev Felder Noily.
- in honor of Nathan Robinson.

Steve Elman and Tom Holt

- in memory of Judith Brooke Elman.

Eliezer and Irit Gafni-Pinchovski

- in honor of the brit of Amir Pinchovski.

Mark Gershman

- in honor of Leslie Kane's hard work and visionary skills.
- in honor of Julie Hansen's hard work in creating a beautiful membership directory.

Joe Hample.

Batya Kalis

- in memory of Myrna Cherin.
- in honor of the arrival of Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman.

Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath

- in memory of Myrna Cherin.
- in memory of Judith Elman.
- in honor of Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman.

Lawrence C. Klein

- in appreciation of the *Jewish Gaily Forward*.

Debbie Levy.

Ron Lezell

- in memory of Irving Lefkowitz.

Mark Mackler

- in honor of Bill Goldstein.

Michael Sarid

- in honor of Reuben Zellman's admission to rabbinic school.

Scott Torgan.

Susan Tubbesing

- in memory of Ann Kohout.

Marc Wernick

- in appreciation of Michael Chertok.

Abigail Wizansky.

Barry Zeve.

Ami Zusman

- in memory of Edward Gellman.
- in memory of Myrna Cherin.
- in honor of Ron Edelman.

Mishkan Fund

Allan Berenstein

- in memory of Isabel Fishman.
- in honor of Nicole Bloom's new chaplaincy
- in honor of the arrival of Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman.

Jeff Piade

- in memory of Regina Schipper.
- in honor of Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman.

Inclusive Liturgy Fund

Batya Kalis

- in honor of all our members who have been accepted to rabbinic school.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Allan Berenstein.

Dale Bullock.

Rose-Anne Donner.

Batya Kalis

- in honor of the RAC participants.

Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath.

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Debbie Levy

- in honor of Rabbi Angel.

George and Phyllis Mintzer

- in memory of Meyer Mintzer.

Andrea Palash

- in honor of Amy Scharf's
40th birthday.

Stacey Shuster and Joan Lefkowitz

- in memory of Irving Lefkowitz.

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

Steve Mazer.

Jeff Piade

- in honor of Rabbi Benay Lappe.

Michael Zimmerman.

Social Action Fund

Allan Berenstein

- in memory of Norma Faini-Pick.
- in honor of Michael Ritz and
Tom Teel of Church Street Flowers,
with appreciation for their continued
support of the Tenderloin Lunch
program.

Sarita Groisser

- in honor of Allan Berenstein.

Condolences

Andrew Schwartz and John Mark

Eggerton, on the death of their
friend, Michael Moran.

Bill Jones, on the death of his grand-
mother, Emma Roll.

Nancy Silverrod, on the death of her
mother, Myrna Cherin.

Marc Wernick, on the death of his
grandmother, Regina Schipper.

Danny Kodmur, on the death of his
aunt, Marge Flemming.

Sue Swigart, on the death of her aunt,
Sandy Eads.

Batya Kalis, on the death of her friend,
Carolyn Hallowell.

Jessica Israel, on the death of her step-
father, David Tarkianen.

Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert, on
the death of their father and father-
in-law, Arnold Weiss.



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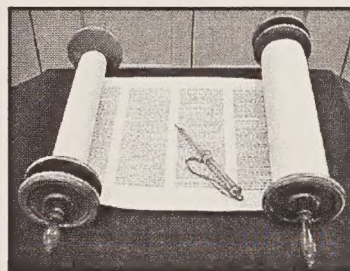
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Birthdays

- 1 Avner Lapovsky
- 1 David Ramos
- 2 Rena Frantz
- 3 Sean Hornby-Finch
- 3 Miriam Trentman
- 4 Jeffrey Rubin
- 5 David Blumberg
- 5 Colette Patt
- 5 Barbara Rinkoff
- 6 Joan Becker
- 6 Aaron Buchbinder
- 6 Mercedes Navarro
- 6 Alison Scott
- 7 Malcolm Haar
- 8 Zoe Kaiser



- 8 Shelley Samuels
- 9 Ruth Newstat Dreisbach
- 10 Rabbi Camille Shira Angel
- 10 Judy Hogan
- 12 Kailin Koch
- 12 Benjamin Malakoff
- 12 Sophie Navarro
- 13 Alison Jacoby
- 13 Mark Reisbaum
- 14 Richard Allman
- 14 Judith Metcalf
- 14 Claire Rappoport
- 15 Arnie Jackson
- 18 Yona Barth-Rogers
- 18 David Stein
- 19 Gary Winter
- 20 Lillian Schaechner

- 20 Richard Wilson
- 21 Gerald Rosenstein
- 22 Marilyn Brown
- 22 Janis Medina
- 23 Barbara Cymrot
- 24 David Stern
- 26 Robert Katz
- 27 Nancy Epstein
- 27 Anna Lichtenberg
- 28 Richard Gruschka
- 28 Sherie Koshover
- 28 Frances Sturtevant
- 29 Trudi Hauptman
- 30 Mark Gershman
- 30 Aarin-Ivriah Schlosberg

Naches

Terry Fletcher on the completion of her six months of chemotherapy treatments.



Patricia Lin on being selected to participate in a month-long interfaith research colloquium in New York during July.

Paul Whitmore and **Miyrarn Sas** on the occasion of their wedding.

Aaron Nacamulli on being named Employee of the Year for the Jewish Vocational Services' Mayor's Youth Educational Employment Program. Aaron will be honored at their fundraiser on April 8.

Ruthy Talansky and **Maureen Bennett** on the naming of their daughter, **Gideon Quinn Talansky Bennett**.

Kadimah teacher, **Irit Gafni-Pinchovski** and her husband, **Eliezer Pinchovski**, on the birth of their son, **Amir Pinchovski**.

Nicole Bloom on her new position serving as Jewish Chaplain for Alta Bates Summit Medical Center.

Lyssa Friedman and **Daphne Stuart** on the arrival of their daughter **Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman**.

Dev Felder Noily on her acceptance into rabbinical school at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Larry Best and **Ming Leung** on becoming the foster parents of **Jazmine**, whom they hope to adopt.

Anniversaries

- 16 Ann Bauman and Kelly Thiemann
- 22 Phyllis and George Mintzer
- 23 Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and Karen Segal
- 24 Alison Scott and Alisa Weiner
- 26 Susan Leff and Brad Post
- 27 Jo-Ellen and David Kaiser
- 28 Geoff Benjamin and Craig Persiko
- 31 Ilana Bernstein and Diane Desmond



Classifieds

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I am a 46-year-old single, Jewish, gay man. I would like to explore the possibility of having a child with a single woman or lesbian couple. I am warm, professional, healthy, stable, kind and easy-going. George 510/658-0192.

Oneg, Flower and Childcare Sponsorships

3/7

Friday oneg was sponsored by **Leon and Lilah Groisser** in honor of Sarita Groisser.



3/14

Bimah flowers and childcare were sponsored by **Manny Fishman** and **Leslie Kane** in honor of the participants of the Religious Action Center's Seminar in Washington, D.C.

Friday oneg was sponsored by **Mike Klayman** in memory of Kafman Klayman.

3/21

Bimah flowers and childcare were sponsored by **Mark Gershman** in honor of Tony Harris's 40th birthday.

Friday oneg was sponsored by the **Gay Jewish Mah Jongg Group** in memory of Regina Schipper.

3/28

Bimah flowers and oneg were sponsored by **Elizabeth Katz** in memory of Joseph Katz, Ida and Benjamin Katz, Esther Katz Bart, Tillie Katz, Sarah Katz Friedman, and Sam Katz.

Friday childcare was sponsored by **James Carlson** in loving memory of Richard Roginski.

Yahrzeits

- 9 Jack Jacobs
- 13 David Delroy
- 14 Thomas Yazman
- 17 Nanci Stern
- 21 James Perkins
- 24 David Loebel